10/565265 IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 JAN 2006 Atty. Dkt. No. 016782-0346

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Jurgen DENUL et al.

Title:

SUBSTRATE COVERED WITH AN INTERMEDIATE COATING

AND A HARD CARBON COATING

Appl. No.:

Unassigned

Filing Date: 01/20/2006

Examiner:

Unassigned

Art Unit:

Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: